In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries consisting of either of
   (a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
   (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
   (c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc,
   and characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

2. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 1, consisting of either of
   (a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
   (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
   (c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc.

3. (currently amended) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim [1 or] 2, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

4. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 3, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

5. (currently amended) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to [one of the claims 1-4] claim 1.

6. (original) An alkaline battery according to claim 5, characterized in that the powder comprises metal cemented out of the electrolyte.

7. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries , comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of

(a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or

(b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or

(c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

8. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries , comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of

(a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or

(b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or

(c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

9. (currently amended) A process according to [claims 7 or 8] claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

10. (currently amended) A process according to [claims 7 to 9] claim 9, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

11. (new) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

12. (new) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 2.

13. (new) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 3.

14. (new) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 4.

15. (new) A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

16. (new) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

17. (new) A process according to claim 8 characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.